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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 29 June 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Government of Yugoslavia in reply to the letter of the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the President of the Security Council on 22 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 69 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Government of Yugoslavia

Referring to the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina dated 22 June 199? addressed to the President of the Security Council of the United Nations, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia wishes to draw attention to the following.

The letter contains tendentious allegations relating to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, i.e., Serbia and Montenegro, and falsely depicts the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As you know, there is a civil war on in Bosnia and Herzegovina, involving the fighting between three ethnic militias being influenced from various sides. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is not being involved as a warring party in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's vital interest is to achieve peace as soon as possible and to settle all problems in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by democratic means as speedily as possible. In this respect, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is doing all possible to bring about a cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Presidency of Yugoslavia, inter alia, publicly called upon the Serbian leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina to initiate and scrupulously comply with the immediate cease-fire, as well as to cease immediately any bombardment of Sarajevo and other cities by its forces from the territories controlled by them; to request, in accordance with the already undertaken and publicly declared obligation, the representatives of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) to immediately take over control of Sarajevo airport; to request the presence of UNPROFOR observers in all their units to verify on the ground respect of the cease-fire and to offer guarantees for an unimpeded passage of any humanitarian assistance in the territories controlled by them.

That such appeals by the Presidency of Yugoslavia have been effective is also proved by the conduct of Serb leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina who have undertaken to ensure an end of bombardment of Sarajevo and the transfer of heavy weaponry deployed around Sarajevo airport to another location in order to lift the blockade of the airport and place it under the command of UNPROFOR for the purpose of bringing in humanitarian supplies.

The authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, however, rightfully expect the international community to exert simultaneous pressure on the Muslim and Croatian sides to do all they can to ensure an immediate cease-fire. It is known that Croatia has not in fact complied with the requirements of Security Council resolutions 752 (1992) and 757 (1992), as evidenced also in the most recent report submitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has no territorial claims either against Bosnia and Herzegovina or any other country. It is firmly committed to comply with all requirements of Security Council resolutions 752 (1992) and 757 (1992). It may be recalled that not a single soldier of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is in Bosnia and Herzegovina anymore. Respecting, above all, its own borders defined by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the decision of the United Nations Security Council, the Army of Yugoslavia and its Air Force have not in any instance violated the airspace of any neighbouring State, including that of Bosnia and Herzegovina, since 19 May 1992. It is an obvious fact that even transport aircraft containing humanitarian relief supplies have waited approval by international organizations for flights to Bosnia and Herzegovina for days, which illustrates that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia strictly abides by the decision of the Security Council. On the other hand, former JNA commanding officers who have joined the military of Serb, Muslim or Croatian peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the armed forces under their command, including military weaponry at their disposal, are not under the control of the General Staff of the Army of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia supports the demand of the Security Council to disband immediately and disarm all paramilitary forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina and those which may come from the outside. In this context, the establishment and armament on these grounds are prohibited by law in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and effective measures have been taken to prevent the establishment and movement of such troops or armed individuals to the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has been suggested also that international control of United Nations observers be established along the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia receives with deep regret the news of the suffering of citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbs, Croats and Muslims alike. It is doing its utmost to alleviate the suffering of these citizens and in this respect it itself has so far sent large quantities of humanitarian assistance in the form of foodstuffs, medicines and the like, and it will continue to do so within its means. Moreover, the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continuously urge and exert pressure on all parties in the conflict to make possible an effective humanitarian relief action to the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular in Sarajevo.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia believes that a durable solution to the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina can only be achieved by an effective political agreement among all three constituent peoples and that, accordingly, it is necessary to continue to make efforts towards achieving this end.